



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



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LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTIONS

Envelopes	2565.00
Loose	190.00
Other	280.00
TOTAL	3035.00

December 8, 2024 - Second Sunday of Advent

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” Philippians 1:9-10

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you love.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who are ill, or housebound, in our Parish Family:

Barry Bembridge, Baby Anthony Vu, Joanna Black, Stella Hildebrandt, Paul McKenzie, Rudy Leon, Shirley Bach, David Lim

Please pray for the most recently deceased:

Pat Donegan

We, the Catholic community of St. Anthony of Padua, relying on the wisdom and grace of God, unite ourselves to the call for renewal and transformation of our spiritual, social, and economic life.

- MISSION STATEMENT -

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	Dec 7	5 PM	+Harry & Lillian Bouchard
SUN	Dec 8	10:00 AM	+Francesco Girolametto
		1:00 PM	+Aquilino B. Posadas
MON	Dec 9	9 AM	+Catherine Trite (healing)
TUE	Dec 10	7 PM	+Marilyn Struys
WED	Dec 11	11 AM	+Patrick Donegan Funeral
THU	Dec 12	6 PM	FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE +Guliker Families
FRI	Dec 13	9 AM	+Rosita Juan
SAT	Dec 14	5 PM	+ Briccio Sr. & Consolacion Cadiz Colleen de Los Reyes (birthday)

Upcoming at St. Anthony's
Funeral: Pat Donegan at 11 am
PREP: Thursdays 3:30 pm
RCIA: Thursdays 6 pm
PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER:
December 8th at 6 pm
SIMBANG GABI: December 15-23 at

CWL News

CWL Dues are due now. You may submit them at the parish office \$45.00

Food Bank Sunday is the last Sunday of each month in our parish.

Please remember that many people in our community rely on this assistance and your donations are gratefully accepted and badly needed. There are red bags in the gathering area of the church for you to use to bring your generous donations into the church.

Thank you!



Thank you for your response! We have met our parish goal of \$8600 All funds given in excess of this amount will be returned to our parish for our projects and we can directly apply that to paying for the pavement in our parking lot!!!!

To date: \$10,300!!!!

THANK YOU!!!!

Mail Disruption:

The B.C. Catholic Print Edition

Stay informed and inspired with The B.C. Catholic digital edition, now available for free at digital.bccatholic.ca. Due to a mail service disruption, our print edition is temporarily paused. We will resume printing as soon as the postal service returns to normal.



Would you like to honor a loved one, family member, or friend in our Christmas Altar Display. If you wish to do this, simply drop a donation of your choice into the offering basket or leave it at the Parish Office! Remember to include the name(s) of the people you wish to have honored Along with your name.

Journey Through Advent Video Series

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has created a weekly video series for this Advent season, designed to help the faithful prepare for the memorial of the birth of Christ. Reflections will be offered by Archbishop Frank Leo of Toronto and Bishop René Guay of Chicoutimi.

The videos will be uploaded one at a time on a weekly basis throughout Advent and will be available on the CCCB website each Monday in advance of the upcoming

Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. There are several ways to stay informed of these weekly updates:

- Bookmark the home page of the CCCB website <https://www2.rcav.org/e/897551/2024-12-03/3qjpsm/3204494304/h/r0Ex1GKL-JNI3VHJeQiEO3IMtTEYpIVOOASDtnWfhfs>
- Subscribe to the CCCB's e-mail news service <https://www2.rcav.org/e/897551/news-subscribe-1/3qjpsq/3204494304/h/r0Ex1GKL-JNI3VHJeQiEO3IMtTEYpIVOOASDtnWfhfs>;
- Subscribe to the CCCB's YouTube channel [CCCB CECC](#)
- Subscribe to the newsletter of the CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. 'Encounter', by visiting <https://www2.rcav.org/e/897551/oec-encounter-1/3qjpsx/3204494304/h/r0Ex1GKL-JNI3VHJeQiEO3IMtTEYpIVOOASDtnWfhfs>

Simbang Gabi: Novena Masses

Simbang Gabi is a devotional Filipino tradition that involves a nine-day series of novena Masses in anticipation of Christmas and in honour of Mother Mary. Commissioning Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Blair at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Friday, December 13 at 6:45 p.m. Masses will be celebrated at different participating parishes including ours, between December 15 and 24. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: December 12th

The Twelve Apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, drew thousands to the Christian faith within a matter of hours. But spectacular as their successes were, their first harvest of converts could not compare to the astonishing yield in Mexico in the 1530s, when somewhere between nine and ten million converts entered the Church within a few years.

The credit for that unparalleled missionary success, of course, goes to Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac in 1531. (When he launched a novena of prayer for a rebirth of faith, to combat "the darkness of our age," Cardinal Raymond Burke placed his crusade under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe in recognition of her unique power.) To appreciate the sensational success of the Franciscan missionaries after 1531, one must understand that before the Our Lady's appearance, they had been frustrated in their efforts to evangelize the indigenous peoples. Bishop Juan de Zumarraga—to whom Juan Diego would bring the flowers that bloomed miraculously, out of season, on the Tepeyac hill—had written to Rome to report that the natives seemed unusually resistant to the Gospel. The friars had trouble communicating in the native language, but even more trouble understanding the native culture. The native tribes were pagan, and many aspects of their culture were brutal: human sacrifice, slavery, polygamy. Yet that same culture also had a rich tradition of poetry, song, and speculation about the supernatural and the afterlife. For centuries the people had heard and memorized songs that told of a glorious place, characterized by lush fragrant flowers and the singing of beautiful birds, where at last a soul could find true happiness. And then came the report that Juan Diego had brought beautiful flowers from a hill, where

he had heard the singing of birds, where miracles had taken place. His story matched the old myths. And while he was a humble common man, Juan Diego was a Christian; he had been baptized. Whether the tsunami of conversions was due to the tilma or the flower songs (along with the Virgin's maternal care), the results are undeniable. The friars who had been struggling to win an occasional convert now found the courtyards of their missions packed with people demanding Baptism. The natives traveled for miles, bringing their pagan idols to be burned, accepting penances, regularizing their marriages. The Franciscans now were struggling to cope with the intense desire for the sacraments; they experimented with mass baptism ceremonies (until the Vatican barred the practice) simply to keep up with the demand.



During this second week of Advent, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us. When our lives are hurried, we only have the chance to focus on our to-do lists. Making space in our schedules for prayer and meditation helps us to better see God at work in our lives and in our world. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose. As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious. Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. Amen.